

Expertise, Experience & Excellence – The **HOSA** Adventure

The 2005 Kentucky Leadership HOSA Conference was held March 16-19 at the Executive West in Louisville. While many are involved on a statewide basis, the expertise and dedication of HOSA's Executive Council is responsible for the framework of the entire event - thus allowing the adventure to begin. This year's conference hosted 653 students, 67 advisors and numerous guests.

The expertise of many individuals provided an assortment of opportunities for all who attended. An array of secondary and postsecondary folks relayed the significance of HOSA – in terms of how important it is to network from local, regional and national levels; develop leadership skills; gain educational

experiences; develop self confidence; develop public speaking skills; provide an opportunity to expand one's personal horizons; provide an opportunity to travel outside Kentucky to see what other states are doing; have an opportunity to earn scholarships; and meet new friends. All point to hard work and dedication in developing each individual through the experience of HOSA – it is considered by many to be a journey as well as an adventure.



One of the first activities that students experience at the opening of conference is the state officer candidates' election. HOSA students are busy campaigning for their school representative or taking time to learn about students who are running for an office. The entire main hall is filled with various "election tables" and "giveaways." This year's 2005-06 HOSA officers include: President Calvin Kerr, Lake Cumberland ATC; Vice President Eddie Wells, Scott Co. High School; Secretary Binh Tran, Louisville Central High School; Treasurer Savannah Smith, Breckinridge Co. ATC; Historian Brittany Ciukaj, Breckinridge Co. ATC; and Parliamentarian Michael Chambers, Lee Co. ATC.

Says HOSA President Calvin Kerr, "HOSA runs in the family. It's my turn to keep the tradition alive."

Calvin, pictured with Lake Cumberland ATC Health Sciences Instructor Pat Dennison (who is also his grandmother), as he campaigns for president.

Photo – 2005-06 HOSA State Officers - Front row from l to r: Binh Tran, secretary; Savannah Smith, treasurer; Brittany Ciukaj, historian. Back row l to r: Michael Chambers, parliamentarian; Eddie Wells, vice president; and Calvin Kerr, president.



“HOSA is important because it gives recognition to students who perhaps have never received recognition. It boosts self-esteem and helps them to succeed. Students learn community service through the HOSA program of work and more importantly, they learn about the feeling you get from helping others and expecting nothing in return,” says Martin Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor and 2004 KY Tech Teacher of the Year Martha Williams. “As a teacher, HOSA is important to me because I am able to see all of this through the eyes of my students – bright kids that have potential. It’s also the excitement that I get from my students and being able to network with all my KY Tech colleagues – like Sharon Grace, (2003 KY Tech Teacher of the Year) who is a wonderful teacher and very dear friend.”

Says Sharon Grace, “Martha Williams is a very creative, talented and caring individual. She is always willing to share with all of us anything that we can use in the classroom. She is dynamic.”



Sharon Grace and Martha Williams



Martha Williams (center) with Martin Co. ATC health sciences students.



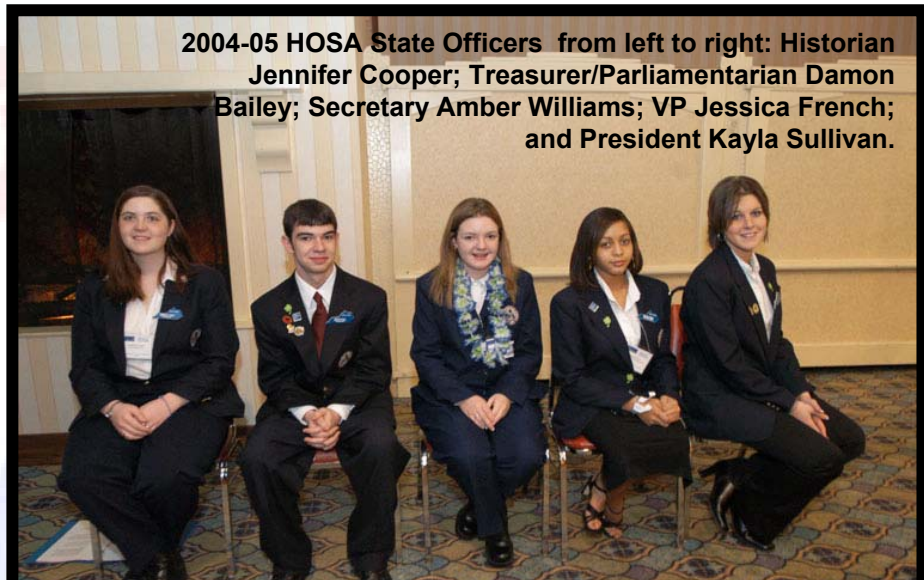
Sharon Grace (l) and her Russellville ATC health sciences students.

During this past year, Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Sheryle Guess served as state officer advisor, in addition to her normal teaching duties. The role that she and others before her have accepted is to “attend all six executive council meetings during the year; stay in touch with all the officers to make sure everything gets done in a timely manner; travel with the state officers to state and national competitions; mold these kids to effectively learn their officer positions; and to get them to the point where they could take over on their own.”

“In addition to my love of teaching kids, over the past year my daughter has been in Iraq. This activity has been a blessing to keep me busy,” says Sheryle.

“I would encourage all advisors to get their students involved in the state officer pipeline. By virtue of having two state officers, the students in my local chapter have learned so much over this past year and have been a great help too.”

2004-05 HOSA State Officers from left to right: Historian Jennifer Cooper; Treasurer/Parliamentarian Damon Bailey; Secretary Amber Williams; VP Jessica French; and President Kayla Sullivan.



Sheryle offers advise as officers practice their duties for the opening general session.

Opening General Session



**OCTE Executive Director
Emil Jezik addresses students
during opening session.**



Above: Tears of Joy -- State HOSA Director Elizabeth Bullock is flanked on the left by Executive Director Emil Jezik and on the right by OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter and Donald Bullock (her son) as she is presented with an amazing HOSA themed quilt.

The quilt was specially created by OCTE Branch Manager Dr. Joyce Wogoman and is made from HOSA state and national t-shirt designs covering a fifteen year period. The quilt also includes photos of family members and advisors.



At left: Outstanding Secondary HOSA Advisor of the Year Debbie Gray (Breckinridge Co. ATC health sciences instructor).

"I was very honored, but feel that this award should be shared with all the advisors because I couldn't make it without my fellow colleagues."



The Life of an Advisor as Relayed by Patricia Preston – Harrodsburg ATC Health Sciences Instructor

We begin with students signing up for competitive events with visions of glory and no discernable knowledge of what it takes to get there. As advisors we coax and coach, prod and praise, while striving to find that delicate balance. We learn to harden our hearts to groans, sighs, and rolled eyes as we say, ever so sweetly, ‘Why don’t we run through that one more time?’ Suddenly without knowing how, the final week of preparation dawns. Nerves are frayed, chaos rules, and panic is just under the surface. The night before is a marathon of last minute details and small crisis after small crisis suddenly blown to Godzilla proportions.

Some how we make it onto the bus to leave for state competition.

We arrive in a flurry of activity with 25 kids and three advisors. The next two days pass in a blur of motion. We race up and down seven flights of stairs to make sure that every kid makes it to his/her event on time, and with everything they are supposed to have with them. I must soothe nerves, iron blouses, and sew loose buttons. That is before competition.



(l to r) – Harrodsburg ATC Health Sciences Instructor Patti Preston, health science students Jacqueline Morrow, Danni Yeager, and Megan Beasley; and Instructor Vicki Long prior to awards ceremony.

After competition, we dry tears and assure each kid that they probably did better than they think – and that we are very proud. Finally, it is Saturday. We sit on the edge of our seats blindly reaching out to grip the hands beside us waiting with pounding hearts for the announcements of all the winners. With each name there are howls of joy that cannot be contained as stunned kids make their way to the stage on trembling legs to receive their trophies and ribbons. I stand to snap their picture on the way back to us and see in each face such a glow - pure joy radiates from shining eyes. Something warm and wonderful wells up inside of me and I know without a mirror that I am glowing too. In that instant, I know that the hopes and dreams, work and frustration, long days and sleepless nights, have all become part of a bigger picture. . .a landscape of highs and lows, ups and downs, and a winding path that disappears into a horizon lit by promise. This HOSA experience and all it entails has honed us, and will continue to shape us as it leads us into the future.



Photo at left: Patti Preston, Letcher Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Vivian Black and timekeeper taking care of a state event. At right: Vicki Long and Georgette Sims, who serves as a Harrodsburg substitute teacher.



Both Patti Preston and Vicki Long are health sciences instructors at Harrodsburg ATC. During OCTE's annual awards and recognition program this past December, they were delighted when their program was announced as the 2004 KY Tech Program of the Year.

Advisors' Hospitality Room



Debbie and “Grammy” take a moment to pose for the camera. Says Debbie of her mother, “She has worked hard this year – real hard!”

Each year, a number of special activities and events take place for students and those connected with the conference. However, a mainstay of the whole conference is the advisors' hospitality room that has been staffed for the last ten years by Dean Smith, commonly referred to as “Grammy,” mother of Breckinridge Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Debbie Gray. In addition, Lyvenia Anthony provided a tremendous help to Grammy during this year's conference. Her daughter Patty was a former student under Debbie Gray and served as the 2003-04 HOSA State vice president.

“I love meeting all the sweet people across the state because

health sciences advisors are special. I've served more food this time than ever before. I made 21 cakes, pimiento cheese, 14 cheese balls, sausage balls, onion and vegetable dips, and meatballs. We also do our own fruit and vegetables,” says Grammy. “I think HOSA helps so many going into health care careers. It gives the young girls and boys so much confidence. I enjoy being part of the whole event.”

“Playing Doctor – Simulated Laparoscopic Surgery” – A Special Experience Provided by the Purchase Area Health Education Center

During this year’s conference, something new was added for teachers and students – “Playing Doctor” by simulating laparoscopic surgery. The reason for this addition is simple – it compliments the secondary and postsecondary educational experience.

“As an advisor of HOSA, I knew instructors would benefit from this experience,” says Pamela Jarboe, coordinator for medical information at the South Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at WKU. “Nothing beats a hands-on experience. I wanted to help bring these activities and resources into the classroom by exposing them at the state HOSA conference.”

“I think AHEC can provide experiences for instructors and students by partnering with organizations to educate students on health careers and the HOSA conference provides a statewide forum to help make this possible,” says Missy Stokes, B.S., health career coordinator with Purchase AHEC at Murray State University and instructor of this special event.

“This is a remarkable experience. It helps students learn about all the seven careers in the surgical area,” says Morgan Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Elaine Bartley. “It also helps them learn about sterile fields and infection control.”



The Kentucky State HOSA Lieutenants

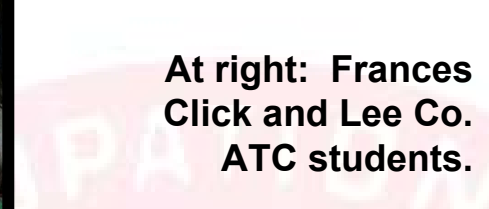


HOSA Lieutenants pictured from left to right: Lake Cumberland ATC Health Sciences Instructor Pat Dennison; Barren Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Joni Edwards; Meade Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Donna Lynch; Harrison Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Ellie Pribble; and Kim Nealis, practical nursing instructor at Maysville Community and Technical College – Rowan Campus. Not pictured: Breckinridge Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Debbie Gray.

“The HOSA Lieutenants are responsible for facilitating and coordinating leadership events,” says State HOSA Director Elizabeth Bullock. “It takes a massive effort to put together all the state events in Louisville – using Jefferson CC, U of L Dental School and the Executive West Hotel. All the competitive events would not materialize if it weren’t for the time and energy of the lieutenants and those they recruit to help.”



**Above: Elaine Bartley and
Morgan Co. ATC students.**



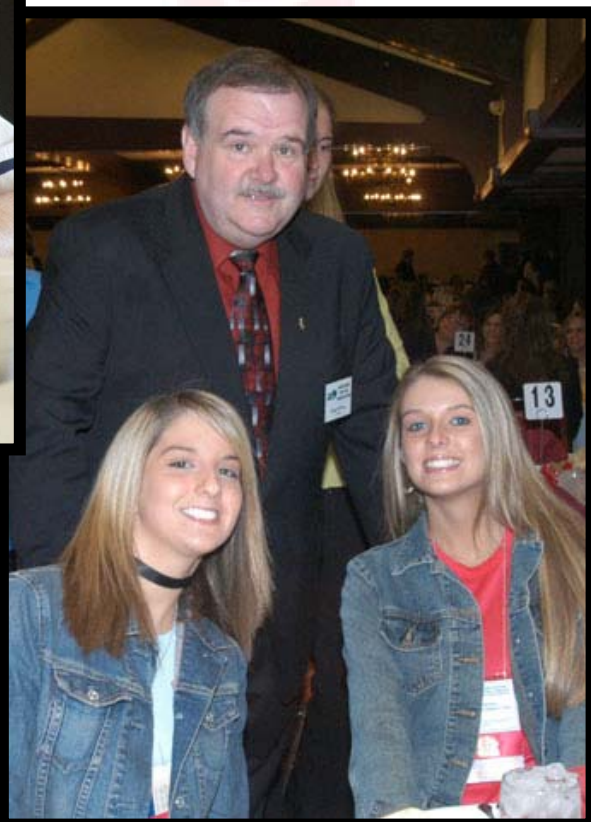
**At right: Frances
Click and Lee Co.
ATC students.**



**Carla Wallace,
Ohio Co. ATC**



**Above: Joni Edwards and Barren
Co. ATC students.**



**At right:
Mayfield/Graves Co.
ATC Principal Roger
Pierce and Marshall Co.
Technical Center
students.**